

## BOOK REVIEWS

### MULTIPLE CHOICE (OBJECTIVE) QUESTIONS IN PHARMACOLOGY

By Roger A. Lewis. (Pp. 143; £2.20). London: Bailliere Tindell. 1976.

THIS is a useful little book which contains a variety of multiple choice questions relating to both pharmacology and therapeutics. The author also includes comments both for examiners and potential students on the advantages and limitations of the various ways in which questions of this type may be phrased.

The questions are divided up into groups by systems or diseases, and within each group five different types of test are presented. Medical students (certainly local ones) might have difficulty using the book, as the level of pharmacological information required is often greater than that expected of them, and selective use is not possible. However, it should provide a stimulus to teachers to consider the application of more variable multiple choice question techniques to examinations in this subject.

D.G.McD.

### A HANDBOOK OF TREATMENT. Edited by H. W. Proctor and P. S. Byrne.

(Pp. X + 434. Illustrated. £9.95). MTP Press, Lancaster, Lancs. 1976.

THIS book attempts to provide general physicians with a conveniently sized work for daily reference. It is divided into three main sections—therapy of common diseases, drugs in current use and then selected aspects of therapy, including such subjects as common emergencies, pain and terminal care, and contraception. Inevitably, a book of this type is trying to condense information as much as possible in order to keep the size within reasonable proportions. The result is 433 pages long and this modest size sometimes produces frustration in the area of individual subjects about which advice is being sought. In fact, I would think in most instances where general physicians are consulting the literature about therapy, they are seeking very specific information and require more detailed appraisal of the topic than is possible here. Their source will be monographs, review articles or a textbook of pharmacology.

However, assuming that broad guidelines in general areas of treatment are used by some, this book appears to be reasonably comprehensive and it is useful that it considers drugs as well as diseases. The difficulty is that information about a specific drug or treatment may appear in various places and it may be necessary to read them all to get a complete picture. It may also be useful as a reference book for the medical student or postgraduate student who wants a broad view of treatment in a particular area. I am not convinced that in a book of this type with a premium on space, the use of 120 pages to discuss selected aspects of therapy is a good idea. The extra space would have been more advantageously utilised in expanding the general views of therapy in the earlier chapters. The chapter on prospects in medical treatment was neither perspicacious nor helpful.

The price is comparable to Dunlop's Textbook of Medical Treatment and the differences between these two books may be largely a matter of individual preference.

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